



THE PASSENGER

Before you begin your journey, you will need:

- Backpack with:
 - This worksheet
 - Pen or pencil
 - Snacks
 - Water
 - First Aid kit
 - Cell phone
 - Colored pencils
 - Binoculars and field guides (optional)

For nearly 100 years, the Northern Central Railway served Baltimore and Baltimore County with reliable and economical rail service for passengers. Built in 1859, the Parkton Local, was a series of commuter trains that ran between Parkton and the Calvert Street Station in Baltimore. The “Local” was used by businessmen to receive and sell their goods, farmers who used the train to ship their milk and produce, and students who took the train to get to the Sparks Agricultural High School.



The “Parkton Pusher” also called the Parkton Station its home. This steam engine was on call to assist heavy trains that had difficulty pulling their loads while climbing the incline north to New Freedom. Between 1902-1906, many improvements were planned to modernize the Northern Central

Railway, including the introduction of new, faster trains. These trains, however, were introduced before upgrades to the track and roadbed were completed. Due to their weight and length, the trains would often break rails and derail. These minor derailments became so frequent that a “wreck train” with a crane was assigned to the Railway, which was stationed at Parkton for nearly 20 years before all the upgrades were completed.

As a passenger, you will arrive at Parkton and begin your journey south, by taking the trail past the bulletin board heading towards York Road.

It's a sunny Saturday morning in June of 1956, and you are about to board the Parkton Local with your family to take a fun trip to visit Baltimore. Before you start walking down the trail, sit down at a picnic table and pretend to wait for your parents to purchase tickets. As you wait, draw a picture of your family standing in front of the old Parkton Station:



FROM _____																																																				
To _____																																																				
Via _____																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY CONDUCTOR'S TRAIN FARE RECEIPT</p> <p>ISSUED TO PASSENGER AS EVIDENCE OF CASH FARE PAID. NOT GOOD FOR TRANSCON BUSINESS CANCELLED IN TICKET BLOCK</p> <p>Form C-11 Coupon A</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> General Passenger, N. Y.</p> </div> <div style="width: 65%;"> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>DOLLARS</th> <th>DIMES</th> <th>CENTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>10</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>40</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>50</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>60</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>70</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>80</td><td>8</td><td>8</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>90</td><td>9</td><td>9</td><td>9</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div> </div>														DOLLARS	DIMES	CENTS	10	1	1	1	20	2	2	2	30	3	3	3	40	4	4	4	50	5	5	5	60	6	6	6	70	7	7	7	80	8	8	8	90	9	9	9
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After a short wait, your parents return with your ticket! You have never visited Baltimore before, but you have heard many things about the cobblestone streets, buildings that seemed to scrape the sky, horse-drawn flower carts and a variety of restaurants and shops. There's even a zoo!

Now that you've boarded the train, it's time to head down the tracks. Start your hike by taking the trail past the bulletin board heading south towards York Road.

Take in all the scenery around you! The countryside is so beautiful and you feel lucky that you call northern Baltimore County your home. As you hike, listen to the birds and the babbling of the river.

Pull out your binoculars if you brought them, and spend some time taking a closer look around you. What do you see? Draw some pictures below of the natural environment around you. Can you identify any of the things you see?

[illegible]

As you continue your hike, you'll pass a few markers along the trail:

Along the way, you'll pass a red, yellow and black marker on the side of the trail. This is a mileage marker that indicates where you are on the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail. The Rail Trail begins in Ashland, at mile 0, and ends at the Pennsylvania line, falling just short of 18 miles.




This white post with black numbers painted on each side facing the trail were used to tell the train engineer where they were on the trail. Facing the marker, the mileage on the right side indicates the distance to Sunbury, Pennsylvania and on the left side, the distance to the former site of the railroad's Calvert Street Station in Baltimore.



You will pass a large white post with a prominent black "W." These Whistle Posts were installed to instruct train engineers to repeatedly sound a whistle (on steam locomotives) or air horn (on diesel-electric locomotives) as they approached a road crossing. The whistle pattern was typically two long notes, followed by a short note and another long note.



Before turning around to head back to the parking lot, you will end your hike at the Little Falls overlook. On the 28.8 mile ride from Parkton to Baltimore, passengers would have plenty of time to read a good book, or even draw pictures. As you reflect on the Little Falls, draw a picture of the scene before you:



After you complete your masterpiece and enjoy one last glance at the Little Falls, turn around and head back to the parking lot. Be sure to stamp your passport with the stamp found in the box on the bulletin board back near the parking lot! The code to open the lock on the box is 1854.

Pictures of the historic Northern Central Railway courtesy of the Maryland State Archives.

